



## School-Wide Changes: Testing and More

BY KIANA ZIADKHAPOUR & RUOXIN LU  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & MANAGING EDITOR

Odd day...what tests can I have today?

By now the testing changes have been integrated into our daily school routine. Most teachers must now follow a set schedule that permits tests to be administered by subject and the even or odd nature of the day. For instance, math teachers can only give full period tests on odd days.

However, many students admit that this change came upon them quite abruptly. Freshman Aashi Mehta says, "I was not aware of the [testing] change until teachers recently brought it up." Many students share this sentiment of being "surprised" by the changes. According to some, they felt as if they were not consulted at all.

In this pilot program, the school administration hopes to alleviate pressures students feel about testing and prevent students from having a multitude of tests on any given day. However, this new change has actually brought about opposite effects. Before February break, a simple walk through the halls brought concern to the faces of many students as they heard juniors complain of the over five tests many of them had to take in a single day. This problem is exactly what the school administration hoped to avoid with the start of the testing schedule program.

Additionally, students and teachers alike have run into other issues with the testing schedule as well. After finishing a unit, many teachers often spend a day to review before administering a test. However, what happens when the review day falls on the allocated testing day for a subject? Should teachers forgo review and schedule a test directly after finishing the unit, or allow for a review day and then wait for the next even/odd day while beginning a new unit? Or, what would the testing protocol be before breaks? Should units be cut short to allow for testing before a break on an

even/odd, or should teachers administer a test the day students get back from break? Would the best solution in this case be to temporarily stop the testing schedule during weeks before vacations to allow teachers sufficient time for testing? This, however, could undermine the purpose of the initiative, as seen with the size of the testing schedule due to snow days last month.

Although the testing schedule was put into place to try to help students, perhaps the best course of action would be to reform the pilot program by having school administration really listen to teacher and student feedback and really take their thoughts into account. Many, including Mr. Herrmann, view the program as "a solution to a problem that does not exist." Or, perhaps, a solution to a problem that exists for a few, being taken into action for the majority.

The new scheduling changes also are accompanied by a whole host of changes that are planned to take effect this coming 2018-19 school year. Firstly, all students must take a lunch period. However, if you want to be a part of the ambitious crowd of students who chooses to opt out of lunch in favor of squeezing in an extra class, you and your parent must sign a permission slip. This is in an attempt to fully implement the initial goals of the nine-period day schedule. Administration believes that it is valuable for students to have a break in the day to eat lunch, spend time with friends, and ultimately, allow them to relax a bit. If you want to change or drop a class, beware. You are only allotted a certain amount of days to switch or drop the class before being penalized for dropping by receiving a "60" in place of the class on your transcript. While these changes are meant to have students be more thoughtful in choosing their classes, some worry about the potential effects. Time can only tell what the long term effects of these initiatives will be. Hopefully we will be able to learn from unfavorable changes and reform the system to everyone's advantage.



PHOTO CREDIT: LINKEDIN.COM

## 17 Lives Lost, But Not Forgotten

BY ATUL GERA  
STAFF REPORTER

Unfortunately, once again, our country mourns the loss of 17 students, teachers and coaches, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida, which was ranked as Florida's safest city last year. The shooter had set off the fire alarm "so kids would come pouring out of classrooms and into the hall," Florida Sen. Bill Nelson told CNN. This perceived fire drill turned tragedy is the 6th school shooting in 2018 that has resulted in injuries. School safety for students across the country is being questioned, and several potential solutions have come forth including: arming teachers, placing armed guards or police officers in schools, and installing metal detectors at all entrances. School officials are reacting by taking more precautions and modifying current school rules to ensure their students' safety. This is evident here at our district. POB School District Superintendent Dr. Lorna Lewis told the Plainview-Old Bethpage Herald, "Plainview-Old Bethpage schools conduct many emergency drills and no doubt there will be more." Additionally, we have recently upgraded our district-wide communication system which establishes communication between all buildings. Currently, the district is also working on upgrading all security cameras from analog to IP high definition cameras inside and outside all of our schools.



PHOTO CREDIT: NYDAILYNEWS.COM

The community of Parkland, Florida has come together after this incident to demand action. Students of the high school, along with their families and families of the victims, have applied immense pressure on the issue of gun control. Within two weeks, they have raised over two million dollars in donations for their march in Washington D.C. on March 14. The growing movement has even prompted President Trump to direct Attorney General Jeff Sessions to propose changes that would ban bump stocks. On top of this, numerous companies that were affiliated with the National Rifle Association (NRA) have severed these ties as a result of feedback from this assembly. These companies include: Delta Airlines, Enterprise Holdings Inc., TrueCar, MetLife Inc., Best Western, and many more. Despite this chain reaction, a few companies such as FedEx have not followed suit and kept the benefits for NRA members. The controversial 2nd Amendment debate is nationally reignited after any and every mass shooting. A conclusion is rarely reached before the argument subsides and is veiled by other current issues. However, the movement to prevent such a school shooting from happening again in the United States is not slowing down anytime soon. Hopefully, they succeed in their goals and no other family has to endure the pain of losing a loved one at school.

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## WELCOME!

*The Hawk Eye is always accepting new members and entries!*

*Please listen to the announcements for the time and locations of our weekly meetings!*

*Thank you for reading!*



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**EDITORS-IN-CHIEF**

Julia Park & Kiana Ziadkhanpour

**MANAGING EDITORS**

Priyanka Gera & Ruoxin Lu

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

AASHKA SANGHVI

**NEWS EDITOR**

Emily Chertoff

**OPINION EDITOR**

Eshwin Varghese

**SPORTS EDITOR**

BEN POLLARD

**SECRETARY**

MIRANDA COHEN

**TREASURER**

Anastasia Grossfeld

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Julia Limmer

**STAFF REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE**

- Priyanka Gera
- Atul Gera
- Jake Solomon
- Jake Feldman
- Emily Zhang
- Alyssa Iryami
- Miranda Cohen
- Julia Park
- Kiana Ziadkhanpour
- Sarah Reinkraut
- Aashka Sanghvi
- Emily Chertoff
- Chris Park
- Eshwin Varghese
- Ruoxin Lu

**FACULTY ADVISOR**

Joseph Beck

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Any correspondence should be directed to the Editors-In-Chief at the above address.

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is an open forum, in practice and policy, for student expression and the discussion of issues of concern to its audience. We therefore welcome *signed* letters to the editor and/or guest columns from students, faculty, support staff, administration and community residents.

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# High School Internships: An Investment In Your Future

BY EMILY CHERTOFF  
NEWS EDITOR

Beginning as early as junior year in high school, students begin to contemplate possible career choices and colleges. Obtaining an internship may help you to determine your interests as well as dislikes early in the process. Internships offer students the chance to experience what a real job may be like. This can help students make college choices and decide on majors.

As the competition to gain acceptance to the college of your choice becomes a challenge, an internship will prove to be valuable as it sets you apart from other applicants. The skills learned such as resume writing, interviewing and making a commitment to the job will help with college admissions and future job prospects. Internships for high school students are not as common as those for college students. I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Lieberman, who is a business teacher and runs the internships here at JFK. Available internships span career fields such as law, hospitality, accounting and audiology to name a few. If a student finds an internship on their own, it needs to be approved by Mr. Lieberman. First, a resume needs to be submitted to Mr. Lieberman. The approval process includes visiting the site to verify the safety of the workplace and meeting

with the employer to discuss responsibilities and expectations of the student. Lastly, the student will have an interview at the workplace. A minimum of two hours a week is required. To earn one college credit a hundred hours is needed. Fifty hours will earn you half a credit. This will appear on your high school transcript. When I asked Mr. Lieberman the difference between community service hours and an internship he explained that “an internship is business based. It’s about gaining work experience in a field of interest. Community service is about volunteering and helping out where needed.”

I recently obtained an internship and the approval process went smoothly. Mr. Lieberman was always available for assistance. The physical therapy office, where I do an internship, is very flexible with my school schedule. I have learned more about this field and I think it is a great way to get some insight into a future career. The Society of Human Resource Management reports that “high school students who completed their internship program are either “very likely” or “completely likely” to eventually land a college internship possibly leading to a full time job with their company. Although most high school internships are unpaid, the experience gained and investment in your future will prove rewarding.

## MetMUNC XLVI

BY KIANA ZIADKHAPOUR  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MetMUNC is our school’s Model United Nations (MUN) club where students are able to debate international issues with students from across the island and throughout the tri-state-area. Students have the opportunity to attend conferences held at different schools, including the Model UN conference at POBJFK, referred to as MetMUNC. The Metropolitan Model United Nations Conference (MetMUNC) is Long Island’s oldest and largest conference, and this year we had a record number of students participate; over 550 students from New York!

As the Director-General of the club, I was personally a part of the organization of the club, along with the large, and very dedicated staff. Working diligently since the summer, we were successful in organizing the formation of 14 committees and the necessary materials for the students. We were able to even have Congressman Tom Suozzi as our guest speaker. Additionally, past graduates of MetMUNC even attended the conference and acted as alumni chairs of committees.

Senior Matt Wolson, the Secretary-General of MetMUNC reflects on his participation in MetMUNC saying, “One thing that’s remained constant throughout these past 46 years [since the founding of MetMUNC] is the purpose of Model United Nations. And that purpose is very simple: it’s to talk to one another, which is something that’s not always so easy in today’s world. It doesn’t matter if you’re conservative or liberal, religious or atheist, black or white, representing the delegation of the United States or the delegation of North Korea— at the end of the day, we’re all people.” Model United Nations has taught Matt and countless generations of young adults the power of being able to evaluate different perspectives and beliefs and the ability to view situations from viewpoints other than your own. Surely, we can all benefit from this skill, especially in times when it may be difficult to sympathize with challenging beliefs.

Safia Mirza, the Chief of Staff of MetMUNC said that her time at the conference spent with friends she has made from all over Long Island was “truly valuable.” She went on to say that seeing young students embrace Model United Nations priorities and overcome challenges they may have had with public speaking was a triumph to see. For months before the conference, Delegate Trainers and Chief Chairs diligently worked with students to help with developing debate skills.

Mr. DeMartinis, our new club advisor, has worked extremely hard in helping organize our annual conference while laying down a foundation for a new path we hope to follow. He reveals what many students know to be true of the club, that it fosters friendships and valuable life skills and provides students with a community of close-knit and compassionate students.

Model UN is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their opinions, and learn not only about international issues but ways in which to improve public speaking. If you would like to join, it’s never too late! Meetings are held each week in Room 193.



PHOTO CREDITS: LOGAN RAMHAP

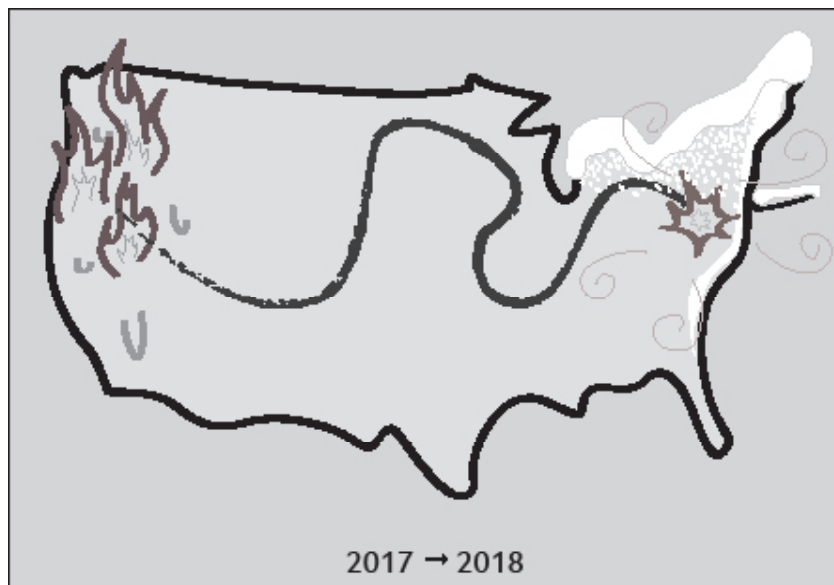


## Wildfires in California

BY EMILY ZHANG  
STAFF REPORTER

In California, wildfires have been plaguing the area for the past couple of months. One of the most known wildfires occurred in Ventura County and reached deadly proportions overnight. This ongoing catastrophe highlights danger to the environment, and the increasing risks in the changing climate. According to the Fire and Aviation Management from the U.S. Department of the Interior, as many as 90 percent of wildland fires in the United States are caused by humans. Some human-caused fires can result from unattended campfires, the burning of debris, negligently discarded cigarettes and acts of arson. However, pertaining to the most recent fires, The Santa Ana winds occur most in the fall and winter. Air from the inland deserts of California and the Southwest push out towards the Pacific, the reverse of the normal wind pattern. At the time of the latest fires, they reached speeds of more than 45 mph. Wind-driven wildfires that broke out in Southern California have destroyed more than 184 homes and forced evacuations of nearly

200,000 people. Nearly 800 buildings and 230,000 acres of land along the coastline have been destroyed. Organizations such as the United Way of Ventura County are accepting monetary donations for the fires online, which is one of the many ways to help the victims. Katherine Ouyang is a



GRAPHIC CREDIT: CHRIS PARK, STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

former student of POBJFKHS, and currently is a local resident of San Francisco that was affected by the earlier wildfires that took place in Norcal. Her mother was extremely worried about her well-being. When asked about the wildfires, she says, “for the Napa fires, our air quality was as bad as Beijing for about two weeks.” A major affect of these wildfires has been the creation of mudslides, in addition to air pollution. As a result of the lack of trees due to the wildfires, the rain was not blocked by anything, making it more abrasive to the ground. In addition, fire effectively changes the soil, making it more slippery and far more prone to erosion than healthy land. As the debris flows downhill, the volume and momentum grows making it hard to stop the flow. The water that combines with the debris makes it possible to transport large items at a quicker pace.

## Plainview Reacts to Larry Nassar Scandal

BY SARAH REINKRAUT & JULIA PARK  
STAFF REPORTER & CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A topic of recent discussion in the news so far in 2018, has been the sex abuse scandal surrounding USA Gymnastics (USAG) team doctor Larry Nassar. Nassar was charged with a life sentence in prison after pleading guilty to multiple criminal sex charges.

Who is Larry Nassar? Larry Nassar has been working with USAG since 1986 as an athletic trainer and team physician, until late 2015, when Nassar quietly, yet abruptly, retired from USAG. The sexual assault allegations that flooded in the following year gave context to his retirement and led to a series of investigations. Before Harvey Weinstein, #MeToo, and the national reckoning with sexual assault, investigations took place over an email that was sent to the Indianapolis Star by Gymnast Rachael Denhollander who alleged that Nassar sexually abused her. However, more surprisingly, USAG first heard about the allegations against Nassar in 2015 and waited weeks to contact law enforcement officials. During that time, many athletes admit that administrators and coaches were aware of their complaints, but actions were not taken. Olympic gymnasts like Aly Raisman said USAG did not want them to tip off investigators, and others received settlements to prevent them from publicly speaking about Nassar controversies. Eventually, as FBI investigations ensued, dozens of similar allegations followed against the doctor who molested young women under the guise of medical treatment. Hundreds of criminal complaints and civil suits against Nassar have since been filed.

This scandal not only shocked the nation, but affected our school community as well. POB Varsity Gymnast Jessica Lopez said her friend “can’t even look at her USAG medals without being disgusted.” When discussing the reaction of her teammates she said, “Right now, we are all just very disappointed and disgusted by USAG. It was so hard for all of us

[as] a part of USAG to believe that the organization that we have trusted with our careers for so long has failed our fellow athletes so terribly. They knew what was going on, didn’t do anything to stop it, and they still haven’t spoken out about what happened. We just can’t look at it the same anymore.” However, Lopez said her team was still “passionate about gymnastics,” and “USAG and their bad reputation will never be able to take that away from them.”

In the fallout of the Nassar scandal, actions have been taking place to combat the issue. Lopez wanted to “commend every one of the 265 survivors for their bravery because it has been so inspiring to see them all band together to

# TIME'S = UP

PHOTO CREDIT: TIMESUPNOW.COM

give Nassar the punishment he deserves.” Also, she reiterates that knowing that this was not only Nassar’s fault is important. She says, “USAG really needs to change and I think the best way to do it is simply just to start over. Not only was Nassar the national team doctor, he was also on several committees that made rules and regulations to keep these girls safe and healthy which clearly were not effective. The United States Olympic Committee asking the entire USAG board to resign and getting rid of Nassar was a good first step, but I think it’s just as important to get rid of every person that enabled him to do what he did.”

Likewise, members from the Girls Learn International (GLI) club had similar reactions.

Aditi Tawde, president of GLI, said she was “horrified” and “disgusted beyond words” upon hearing the news. “Unfortunately, there are instances of victim blaming to be found everywhere, even now,” she explained further, and she is absolutely right. Instances like this do not only occur in the realm of gymnastics and sports, but in careers and institutions across the board. It is imperative for victims to know that they are not at fault and they should always report instances of abuse.

As Mrs. Candelaria, a special education teacher and advisor for GLI exclaimed, “Trust your gut! I would advise anyone who feels uncomfortable about a certain personal exchange with another person to trust their gut and talk to someone. Anyone!”

Sexual abuse and movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp have broken the silence and created a platform for women to speak up and educate people about sexual harassment and assault. Regarding these movements, Tawde exclaimed she is “glad that many women have found the strength to come forward and talk about their experiences,” and Mrs. Candelaria hopes that “this movement will motivate others to speak for themselves and put a stop to sexual assault.” Lopez concluded saying, “We need to get rid of every last trace of Larry Nassar on USAG to ensure that something like this never happens again, so that no one will ever have to ‘me too’ again.”

The Girls Learn International club focuses on women’s rights and education, and raises awareness for issues like abuse. Anyone can join the club, even the guys! If you want to join, GLI meets every other Wednesday in room 233. You can speak with Mrs. Candelaria for more information.

# The Chromebook Takeover: Questioning The Push For More Technology?

BY JAKE SOLOMON  
STAFF REPORTER

Chromebooks seem to be spreading like wildfire as the school continues to purchase more and more for each grade level. Eventually this will lead to every grade level having Chromebooks. But are the right questions being asked? Do Chromebooks actually help students learn? Are they good for your health? Do students like them?

This push seems to be happening mindlessly without taking into account students or teachers opinions. Is the Chromebook a necessary progression to a 21st century modern classroom or is it a waste of money, time, and training?

Most would assume that schools around the country are transitioning to Chromebooks because they help increase test scores. There must be some sort of research that shows these Chromebooks are a game changer. And with eye catching titles from technology pushing sites like "One-to-One Laptop Initiatives Boost Students Score, Researchers Find," it may seem that way.

But when the actual results are analyzed, it does not seem as revolutionary as the title makes it. A study from Michigan State University showed that the majority of subjects showed no statistically significant increase. Only two studies including Science showed results that could be analyzed. The increase ranged from .12 - .25 standard deviation.

To quickly deter from these lackluster results to say the least, the report then went on to explain how we should 'measure impact beyond test scores'.

The students I interviewed agreed, Chromebooks do not help learning. One 8th grade student, said, "It does not help learning except for Science." Another student, a 5th grader agreed. An 11th grade student, said, "It does not help learning but may help complete assignments."

It may actually make the learning environment worse with more distractions and more cheating, especially for younger children with less mature minds. One student said, "It has too many distractions, I want to play games. The teacher has to yell at students for going on games. They are a temptation and kids don't want to pay attention. They don't help me learn and they glitch all the time." Tablets used at schools have access to a variety of different distractions like games, videos, and websites.

Another student corroborated these claims by saying, "One time kids found a cheat website on the Chromebook's and cheated during class.

The kids get distracted and then the teacher has to yell at them. A kid in front of me watches videos on his tablet while the teacher is teaching and the teacher does not know. A classroom also banned Chromebooks.

The Michigan study went on to say that there are more effective ways to increase scores. Individual tutoring and smaller classroom size are more effective than Chromebooks.

But Chromebooks seem to be more price efficient for schools and the Chromebook itself is relatively inexpensive compared to other laptops. According to the POB Schools Chromebook form, the cost to replace a chromebook costs \$320. Schools also get Google Education Apps free of charge.

Chromebooks are also easier to learn for students and activity on Chromebooks can be monitored by teachers. The Chromebook also has a lifespan of approximately 5 years. Some say it is good that students now have the ability to use these chromebooks during off periods to work on homework or study and use apps like Google Slides on collaborative projects.

Another great feature about Chromebooks is that they help close the Achievement Gap. Twenty percent of low income households do not have internet access and before Chromebooks, they could not afford a device for students to learn on. Low income students now get access to features they may not have had access to.

Many schools in the country are now transitioning to Chromebooks which seem to be the future of technology. If schools stopped buying Chromebooks, they may be seen as falling behind as more and more jobs require technology skills.

But a common misconception is that Chromebooks are a game changer for the environment. After speaking with three students in three different grade levels, they all came to a common consensus that Chromebooks in fact do not help save paper. They may actually require more paper since students are printing out the assignments and reading passages at home.

Teachers still print out worksheets and still print out notes. The students also said that their backpacks are not lighter, and

are actually more heavy since the chromebooks add weight to books.

And another concern is the effect of younger kids staring at technology all day. Evidence states that this leads to eye strains, more difficult to focus, dry eyes, blurred vision, and fatigue. Two students both said, "My eyes burn." They said other people also have eye-related problems because of staring at technology for a good portion of the day. When kids get home, they usually watch TV, go on their phones, and go on their laptop. School is a place where you getaway from staring at screens and give your eyes a rest.

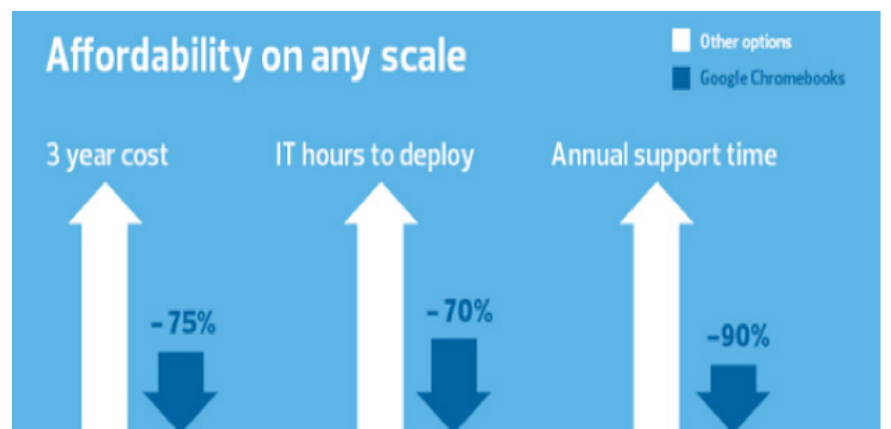
Overall, the students had negative opinions on Chromebooks. "We joke about throwing them out the window," one student said. Teachers also do not base their lessons always around the Chromebooks. The students agree they are not needed in the classroom.

But how much is this costing the school? What is known is that the school charges students \$320 for a missing Chromebook, not much lower than the retail price (a difference of about \$30). Taxpayers hope that the school is negotiating the lowest price for them since they are buying the same model in bulk.

I contacted the Principal and Superintendent to find out the pricing for our district. They were both nice enough to send back a response and I got my email forwarded to the Director Of Technology.

The Director Of Technology told me that the Chromebooks for 2017 cost the district about \$473,955.20. The district's total budget is \$150,000,000 so Chromebooks are very inexpensive and are a very minor cost compared to the total budget.

Chromebooks are both cost friendly and user friendly. But they seem to be getting a chilly reception from both students and teachers. Additionally, the data does not backup the positive effect on grades. Are Chromebooks a necessary step to modernize the classroom and prepare students for the technology driven economy or are they just a rushed, peer pressured waste of money? These are the questions people should be asking and necessary debate should be taking place to see whether Chromebooks are right for our school.



Source: IDC Whitepaper: Quantifying the Economic Value of Chromebooks for K-12 Education, August 12  
COMPARED TO OTHER OPTIONS, CHROMEBOOKS BEAT OUT ALL COMPETITORS WITH LOWER PRICING AND LOWER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.



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## 2018 Winter Night of A Capella

BY ESHWIN VARGHESE  
OPINION EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

On January 20, 2018, the eight POBJFK A Capella groups showcased their talents in the annual Winter Night of A Capella. It was truly a night to remember and each year the show becomes greater and greater.

The A Capella club at POBJFK is like no other program at any other school across the country. President of the club, Jamie Berger enthusiastically states, "This high school has a really unique program because we have eight student-run groups and we showcase them on stage in two annual concerts. I don't believe any other school has this many groups that run their own rehearsals, create their own arrangements, and fashion their own choreo!"

The first group to perform was the mixed group Rolling Tones and they left the stage leaving everyone in awe with their cover of the standout song "Waving Through a Window", from the widely popular Broadway show, "Dear Evan Hansen" which was arranged by Berger, who is manager of the group. Up next was the first female group established at POB, Note-worthy. They opened their set with the emotional hit song by Julia Michaels, "Issues", which left the audience speechless. Not only was I able to watch the show, but I was in it as a member of the first male A Capella group established at POB,

the B Sharps. Most notable of the Sharps' performance was the atmosphere that was created in the first song of their extraordinary set, "Feeling Good" originally by Michael Buble and arranged by manager Kevin Lynch. The most recently formed mixed A Capella group, Under A Rest, showed everyone what they were made of and performed a wonderful rendition of P!NK's "Just Give Me A Reason." Next, the second all-female group, Drastic Measures, had everyone hanging by the edge of their seats with their upbeat cover of the newly released Demi Lovato hit, "Sorry Not Sorry."

The second all-male group at POB, the Acafellas, made everyone in the auditorium go wild, creating so much excitement with their catchy rendition of "YMCA," originally by the Village People.

Next, the third all-female A Capella group, On A High Note, shone in their cover of Kelly Clarkson's "Because of You," and they left everyone with their mouths wide open. Last but not least was the mixed group, Chock Full of Notes. They closed off the night with a cover of James Bay's "Hold Back the River" and incredibly exhibited their uniformity in this song.

This year's Winter Night of A Capella was unusual due to the fact the show should have occurred two weeks before it actually happened. However, the snow days forced for the show to be rescheduled.

Berger explains that she had mixed emotions regarding the reschedulement: "One of my concerns was that we had planned everything out so well, and at the time, I felt that it was all for nothing. But it did give groups more time to perfect their set which I felt was necessary." Despite the challenges, Berger's love for A Capella has not changed one bit. She passionately says, "Doing A Capella has been one of the greatest decisions of my life. This program allowed me to meet amazing people, learn about what it means to give to others, and how to expand my musicianship. A Capella has provided me

accomplishments that I forever will be proud of." Similar views were expressed by B Sharps manager Kevin Lynch: "A Capella has meant a lot to me. It's so cool to be able to take an idea, and after hours and hours of practice and arranging, it comes to life." On behalf of the entire A Capella Club, it is highly recommended that you check out the POBJFK A Capella YouTube Channel, come to Spring Night of A Capella, and audition to be a member of this wonderful program in June!



PHOTO CREDITS: LONG ISLAND IMAGE

## Senior Superlatives 2018

Each year, superlatives are given to members of the senior class and are featured in the yearbook. The list of the 2018 superlatives is as follows:

**Best Dressed:** Kelvin Oritz, Lily Bedell

**Broadway Bound:** Matthew Sala, Danielle Collins

**Class Clown:** Thanos Boulukos, Sarah Teper

**Best Eyes:** Ronin Chasin, Abigail Holisher

**Coolest Nerd:** Luke Petrsoric, Jungin Lee

**Most Likely to Travel the World:** Juan Silva-Mendez, Sarah Shafik

**Most Likely to Outsmart Einstein:** Alex Stepansky, Ruoxin Lu

**Best to Bring Home:** Zachary Herman, Sabrina Kachianos

**Nicest to Know:** Nicholas DeChario, Alison Krinsky

**Cutest Couple:** Max Baraccia and Erica Silver

**Class Cutie:** Justin Wolf, Sabrina Kachianos

**Most School Spirit:** Jason Rosenberg, Jessie Birns

**Best Dancer:** Mazz Levine, Lauren Sieloff

**Most Likely to Succeed:** Ryan Cohen, Miranda Lund

**Best Singer:** Justin Sekler, Danielle Collins

**Nicest Smile:** Jack Brown, Jessica Libertelli

**Best Laugh:** Daniel Petrsoric, Carly Rosen

**Most Outgoing:** Max Nelkins, Sarah Teper

**Most Artistic:** Clayton Song, Ruoxin Lu

**Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum:** Vincent D'Elia/Dominic D'Elia, Alison Krinsky/Olivia Carone

**Best Hair:** Joseph Leone, Emily Kapla

**Most Versatile:** Kevin Lynch, Jungin Lee

**Most Athletic:** Michael Cole, Jamie Yonker



# Jumanji: A Review For Those Who Seek to Find A Spoiler

BY PRIYANKA GERA  
MANAGING EDITOR

In 1995, Jumanji, starring the legendary Robin Williams, made its public debut earning \$11M its opening weekend (which is around \$17.8M today!). Twenty-two years later, in 2017, the world has moved on from the world of classic board games and family nights, and has instead turned to the era of video games and technological advancements. Director Jake Kasdan remodeled the vintage original by flavoring the story with a modern touch. This fresh counterpart modified the premise of the plot to peak the interest of today's youth, but still pays homage to the legend. Fortunately, the authentic telltale drum roll still remains as a symbol in the Jumanji franchise. The audience also receives a side of comedy with the onscreen pairing of Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan and Jack Black, the avatars the teenage students chose before the game began.

The movie takes place in 2017 where four High School students from different cliques are reluctantly stuck in detention. Hoping to find a way out, they uncover a dust-covered gaming console hidden away in storage. What they are unaware of is that 20 years ago, the board game evolved into a gaming console in order to appeal to Alex, a video game-loving community student who unexpectedly and abruptly disappeared in 1996. After they chose their avatars, the students were transported to the commandeered and endangered jungle of Jumanji. Their task is to return the green jewel to the eye of the Jaguar and "if [they] wish to leave the game, [they] must save Jumanji and call out its name." With only three lives and unlimited time to save themselves, they surprisingly befriend each other and learn valuable lessons on the way. This action comedy is a great family movie, as long as no one is afraid of elephants, snakes, jaguars, or the jungle in general.



PHOTO CREDIT: YOUTUBE

On the contrary, in the 1995 Jumanji, 12 year-old Alan Parrish discovers a mysterious board game in 1969. He and his friend Sara Whittle play the game, but "in the jungle [Alan] must wait until dice roll 5 or 8," and with that Alan disappears into the game front of his friend for the next 26 years. Judy and Peter move into the now empty Parrish house with their Aunt Nora. When Nora isn't home, the children are led to the attic by the tribal drum sounds of Jumanji. Peter rolls a '5' and soon enough a lion and Alan (now 40 years old) are transported back into the real world. Alan and the kids must find Sara to continue to play the game and save their hometown before the animals of Jumanji destroy it.

As a result of the new video game format, Alex, the student who disappeared into the game, has little perception of the time that has elapsed since his presence compared to Robin Williams's character (Alan) who aged with time. The new Jumanji briefly mentions Alan Parrish as someone who built and resided in the tree house before Alex arrived, whose avatar (Jefferson McDonough) was played by Nick Jonas. Unlike the original, this story is completely confined within the walls of the game; the characters are apartated to the jungle rather than the jungle coming to them and terrorizing civilians. At the end of both movies, however, the original players (Alex and Alan) are returned to their respective times to live through the years that they missed. The 1995 version leaves the kids Judy and Peter in the dark about their previous adventures, which was probably for the best but the 2017 Alex gets to meet his fellow partners in crime again at the end and thank them for helping him return home.

The stand alone sequel shot in the beautiful landscape of Hawaii caters to the millennial audience, but the question remains: Does it live up to the original story, or is it better?

## The Magic of Music

BY JULIA PARK  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This past winter has been very busy for PBOJFK orchestra. Aside from our annual winter concert and Plainview-Elwood exchange concert, the orchestra took part in a very good performance this past January. For the first time, the orchestra was able to organize an interactive performance for the first and second graders from Old-Bethpage Elementary School. Coincidentally, Ms. Candal, the Old-Bethpage music teacher, has been analyzing Eine kleine Nachtmusik, a main piece in our winter concert repertoire, with her students. Hence, the orchestra was given the opportunity to play Eine kleine Nachtmusik live for the elementary students. Mr. Glenn Rubin, the orchestra conductor, expressed how it was a "it was a really fruitful [event] on both sides—both for them, as young people, and for us. It's really wonderful for us to know that we have played our best and that we have inspired young children because one never knows where that will lead." Despite their young age, the students had diligently studied each theme in the piece and was exposed to different musical terminology and techniques used by Mozart. Throughout the event, students were able

to come up on the stage and identify each theme the orchestra played.

What may have seemed like a simple concert was quite a personal performance, not only for the students, but also for Mr. Rubin. Mr. Rubin vividly remembers his seeing a professional orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, for the first time. He recalls it being the "first real inspiration that lead me on to be better [bassist]," and this concert was the first time seeing a live orchestra perform as well. Mr. Rubin said that the day he saw the Philadelphia Orchestra was a "memory that still gives [him] the goosebumps." "I literally thought I died and went to heaven," he recalls. As a member of the orchestra, I can say that I am glad to have a teacher who knows how important first impressions are. For me, it was nice to see how our district was making the effort to immerse students into the music at a young age. Learning the value of music, the universal language, is so valuable. PBOJFK Orchestra hopes that we will be able to continue to spread the magic of music. Thank you to Ms. Candal, Mr. Rubin, and all the other teachers who helped organize this event.

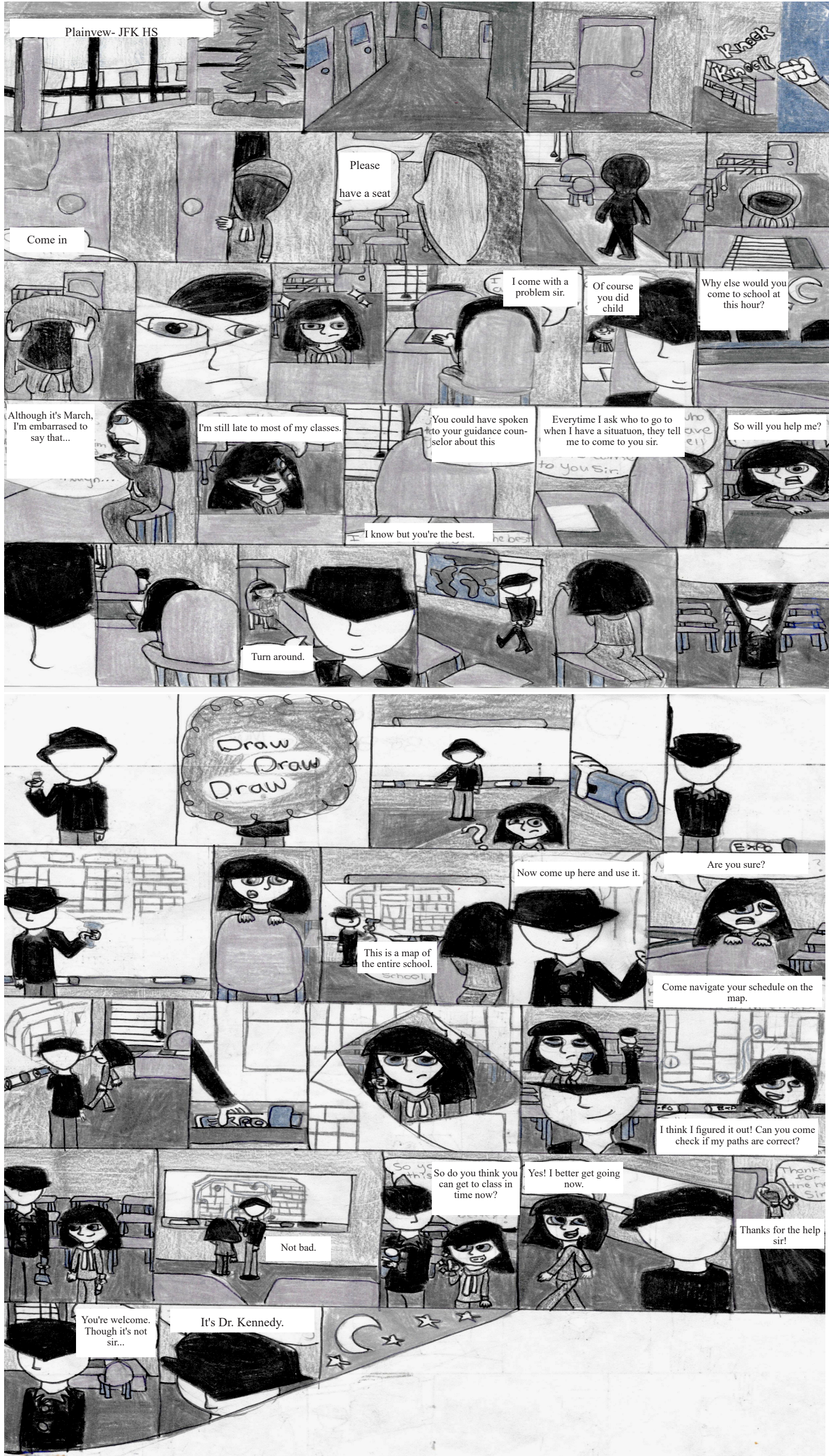


PHOTO CREDITS: JULIA PARK



# Comic: Dr. Kennedy

BY BROOKE MURPHY  
CARTOONIST



## Dear Seniors,

BY ALYSSA IRYAMI

ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE & STAFF REPORTER

Seniors, as many of you have sent in all your college applications, now is the period of anxiety and impatience as you await your decisions. Every answer may not be a yes, but that's okay. You may not get into the school of your dreams, and that's okay too. No matter where you end up, just know you will be happy there because everything happens for a reason. You will still receive a great education, make eternal friends, and have the time of your life. Although rejection is never easy to face, it is a part of life and will only make you more resilient. Michelle Phan, an entrepreneur, even believes "rejection is a blessing because it's the universe's way of telling you that there's something better out there." Everyone goes through challenges they must overcome, take the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, for example. Before being elected president he lost the election for state legislature, could not get into law school, lost the election for the speaker of state legislature, was defeated in becoming an

elector, lost the vote to be a member of Congress, became a Congressman three years later only to lose re-election, was rejected as a land officer in Illinois, lost to become a Senator of the United States, got less than one hundred votes to become the Vice-Presidential nominee for his party, lost the vote for the US Senate again, but was finally inaugurated as the president of our country after 28 years of attempts to make headway in politics.

You will end up at the place best suited for you. As Mrs. O'Donnell says, "if you were not accepted it wasn't meant to be, it probably wasn't the best fit." Despite the fact that you may be stressed now about the uncertainty of your future, just know that everything will be okay. Everything will come together and in approximately seven months, you will be in the place that is right for you. Good luck!

## Holy Baseball: Giancarlo Stanton Traded to the Yankees

BY JAKE FELDMAN

STAFF REPORTER

On December 9, 2017 the Yankees shocked Major League Baseball (MLB) fans when they acquired the reigning National League MVP Outfielder Giancarlo Stanton along with monetary offers from the Marlins in exchange for second baseman Starlin Castro, minor league infielder Jose Devers, and minor league right-handed pitcher Jorge Guzman. The Yankees now have the two best home run hitters in all of the MLB, Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton, based on last season's statistics. The Mets would need to make a huge strategic move in order to keep up with the powerful Yankees' roster.

The baseball fans at JFK High School have mixed feelings about the news; Met fans are not thrilled, as this trade may affect the entire MLB. However, the students who are Yankee fans are excited as to what this season has in store.

A new question is "Can the Astros still beat the strong Yankees team this season?" The Astros beat the Yankees last season in game seven of the American League Championship, and went on to win the World Series. With this new lineup, do the Yankees now have what it takes to win against the Red Sox-- who had an amazing record last season and the strong Astros? POB's baseball fans will have to wait and find out when this MLB season starts on March 29.



THE PICTURE ABOVE SHOWS GIANCARLO STANTON HOLDING HIS BRAND NEW YANKEE JERSEY AFTER HE GOT TRADED. PHOTO CREDIT: NEWYORK. CBSLOCAL.COM

## Girl's Cross Country Relay Team Breaks New Record

BY ESHWIN VARGHESE

OPINION EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

Another historic event has occurred at POBJFK this year as the relay team on this year's girl's cross country team has broken a school record at a recent race. This relay team consists of four incredibly athletic women which includes Sinead Heaney (11th grade), Jane Wernow, (11th grade), Amy Lederer (10th grade), and Leah Chavez (12th grade). Specifically, the relay in which they participated in was the distance medley relay (DMR). Junior Eden Greenberg, another runner on the girl's cross country team, eloquently explains what a DMR is. "The DMR is this race where every member of the relay team runs a different amount. Meaning, you have one member run for a 400-meter leg, another run for an 800-meter leg, another run for a 1200-meter leg, and a final runner for a 1600-meter leg. This type of relay is harder because each individual runs a different amount. Therefore, the DMR is more dependent on each runner in the relay team than any other relay." Well, this was an obstacle that Heaney, Wernow, Lederer, and Chavez were able to overcome.

The feat that these women were able to accomplish was not easy going. Member of the relay team, Jane Wernow, passionately says, "The race was tougher than we have ever faced before, but it definitely pushed us past our limits. The original school record for the DMR was 15:44 and we broke the record with a time of 13:45." According to Wernow, although the old school record was the outdoor record and the DMR had never been raced indoors before, until now, the relay team broke this outdoor record by a large margin of almost two minutes. Support from other members of the cross country team was very evident, according

to relay member, Amy Lederer. "Just being in the moment surrounded by our teammates who were cheering us on the whole time was one of the best feelings ever and I'll never forget it." Although cross country season has ended for this year, we hope to see the rest of the POB-JFK community cheering on our fellow cross country stars next fall!



PHOTO CREDIT: EDEN GREENBERG



# New Sports Team Spotlight



## Breaking Records with Jake Meyers

BY ESHWIN VARGHESE

OPINION EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

Jake Meyers, a senior, has had a passion for running for a long time and his hard work and dedication to becoming an elite track/cross country star in the past four years has finally come to fruition this past October as he became Nassau County Champion in Boys Varsity Cross Country. Running in the five kilometer (3.1 mile) race at Bethpage State Park and any race in general, Meyers states, “[While running] I stay calm, cool, and collected. It is a good idea to pace yourself and from a nutritional standpoint, I make sure I stay hydrated all day and eat properly. My mindset is not only to beat my opponents, but to break my personal record.” The goals that Meyers has set for himself and the attitude he has towards races are major contributing factors towards the success he has had in his four-year running career. In addition to being named a Varsity Cross Country Athlete for POBJFK, Meyers has earned a multitude of other honors including being named MVP of the POBJFK Cross Country Team, being an All-Conference Cross Country Runner, as well as qualifying for Class A Boys Cross Country at the state level.

Cross Country at POB is only a fall season sport, but Meyers, however, knew that he could not run for only a couple of months. He wanted to run the entire year, which is why Meyers is star runner on the POB Winter and Spring Track Team. Meyer’s attributes his success in track and cross country to the outstanding support he has received from parents, coaches, and friends alike. Meyers gratefully says, “My parents both supported me in my running career, as well as my coaches. They have all been there for me, giving me proper training and encouragement during every race. Another supporter has been my long-time friend and running partner, Christian Schiavone. Chris has always been on my side and if it weren’t for him, I would not be the athlete I am today. Running will always be something special we share.” The chemistry between Meyers and Schiavone (another star runner at POB) is, without a doubt, unimaginable and they are one heck of a dynamic duo. When asked whether Meyers would continue his running career at SUNY Geneseo, where he recently committed, he enthusiastically responds, “Yes, of course! I do track and cross country because I love setting goals and improving in every race. I plan on running at a collegiate level where I can build upon the foundation that I have built these past four years in high school.”

Meyers not only loves to run, but he loves to sing as well. He is a member of the B Sharps, an all-male acapella group at POB, a member of National, Spanish, and Tri-M Honor Societies, and a member of the POBJFK Mixed Choir. It also appears that the honors do not apply to his running success only but to his singing ability as well. Meyers was selected to participate in the All-State Mixed Chorus by scoring high on at the NYSSMA Vocal Evaluations. Jake Meyers is a multi-faceted student with a plethora of talents and skills and on behalf of everyone her at POBJFK, we wish you luck on your future endeavors!



PHOTO CREDIT: JAKE MEYERS



PHOTO CREDIT: POBSCHOOLS.ORG